

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 15,  
with the following rewritten paragraph:**

*B<sup>3</sup>*  
--The structure of the ultrasonic motor 3 will now  
be described.--

*/* **IN THE CLAIMS:**

✓Cancel non-elected claims 5-20 without prejudice or admission and subject to applicants' right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Kindly amend claims 1-4 as follows:

*B<sup>4</sup>  
SUP C<sup>2</sup>*  
1. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a plurality of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in a preselected mode of vibration in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, at least one of the piezoelectric elements having a thickness which differs from that of at least one of the other piezoelectric elements in accordance with the preselected mode of vibration.

2. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; further comprising driving means for

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inputting a driving signal to the piezoelectric elements to generate a driving force for expanding/contracting the piezoelectric elements in the preselected mode of vibration; wherein the plurality of piezoelectric elements comprise a first group of piezoelectric elements disposed at a first side of the piezoelectric actuator and a second group of piezoelectric elements disposed at a second side of the piezoelectric actuator which undergoes less expansion/contraction movement than the first side, one of the piezoelectric elements in the first group having a thickness smaller than that of a piezoelectric element in the second group.

3. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; further comprising driving means for inputting a driving signal to the piezoelectric elements to generate a driving force for expanding/contracting the piezoelectric elements to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in the preselected mode of vibration; wherein at least two of the piezoelectric elements generate vibrations in the same direction.

4. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; further comprising an output section for undergoing movement in response to expansion/contraction

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movement of the piezoelectric elements in the preselected mode of vibration; wherein the piezoelectric elements are stacked in a direction parallel to the output section.

Kindly add the following new claims 21-28:

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21. A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; further comprising driving means for inputting a driving signal to the piezoelectric elements to generate a driving force for expanding/contracting the piezoelectric elements in a stacking direction of the piezoelectric elements.

22. An ultrasonic motor comprising: a piezoelectric actuator according to claim 1; and a vibrator connected to the piezoelectric actuator to undergo vibration in response to vibration of the piezoelectric elements.

23. An ultrasonic motor according to claim 22; wherein the vibrator has a thickness equal to that of the piezoelectric actuator.

24. An ultrasonic motor comprising: a piezoelectric actuator comprised of a plurality of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in a preselected mode of vibration in accordance with a driving signal applied thereto, at least one of the piezoelectric

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cont.

elements having a thickness which differs from that of at least one of the other piezoelectric elements in accordance with the preselected mode of vibration; a drive circuit for producing a drive signal for vibrationally driving the piezoelectric elements; a vibrator for undergoing vibration in response to vibration of the piezoelectric elements; and a rotor in contact with the vibrator to undergo movement in response to vibration of the vibrator.

25. An ultrasonic motor according to claim 24; wherein the vibrator has a thickness equal to that of the piezoelectric actuator.

26. A piezoelectric actuator comprising: a first group of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements of the first group in a preselected mode of vibration in accordance with a voltage applied thereto, at least one of the piezoelectric elements in the first group having a thickness which is greater than that of at least one of the other piezoelectric elements in the first group in accordance with the preselected mode of vibration; and a second group of stacked piezoelectric elements stacked with the first group of piezoelectric elements and for undergoing expansion movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements of the

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cont.

second group in the preselected mode of vibration in accordance with a voltage applied thereto, at least one of the piezoelectric elements in the second group having a thickness which is greater than that of at least one of the other piezoelectric elements in the second group in accordance with the preselected mode of vibration.

27. A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 26; further comprising voltage applying means for applying a voltage to the first and second groups of piezoelectric elements to undergo contraction movement and expansion movement, respectively, the voltage applying means applying the same voltage to each of the piezoelectric elements in the first and second group so that the at least one piezoelectric element in the first group having the greater thickness undergoes less contraction movement than the other piezoelectric elements in the first group, and so that the at least one piezoelectric element in the second group having the greater thickness undergoes less expansion movement than the other piezoelectric elements in the second group.

28. An electronic apparatus comprising: a piezoelectric actuator comprised of a plurality of stacked piezoelectric elements for undergoing expansion/contraction movement to vibrationally drive the piezoelectric elements in